

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph starting at page <sup>16</sup>~~15~~, line 1 and ending at line 4. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto is attached.

SS  
5/12/06

A7  
--The shape of this second diffraction grating portion 5 is such a one-dimensional rectangular grating shape having a period parallel to the grating pitch "Pr" of the first diffraction grating portion 4.--

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please substitute the following Abstract for the Abstract starting at page 34, line 2 and ending at line 14. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto is attached.

AS  
--In a diffractive optical element and a polarization separation element using this diffractive optical element, incident light can be effectively separated for the respective polarization directions over the entire used wavelength range. The diffractive optical element is arranged such that the diffractive optical element has a grating structure in which at least two blazed type grating portions are successively arranged along a light traveling direction. Additionally, in at least one grating portion of the two blazed type grating portions, structures smaller than a used wavelength are arranged in a periodic manner.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 5-8 and 10-13 as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claim showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Note that all the claims currently